

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 18 November

Make it in Great Britain campaign launched

Business Secretary Vince Cable and Business Minister Mark Prisk have formally launched the 'Make it in Great Britain' campaign, which aims to transform outdated views of UK manufacturing and dispel the myth that Britain "doesn't make anything anymore". A number of industry champions have been selected who will take formal roles as part of the campaign, supporting its work. Amongst these are Joe Greenwell, Chairman of Ford of Britain, William Butler-Adams from Brompton Bicycles and Michael Ryan from Bombardier Aerospace. The initiative will also feature an exhibition that highlights the best of modern British manufacturing, which will be hosted at the Science Museum and will run during the Olympics from 24 July to 9 September 2012. In addition there will be a specific element of the campaign that focuses on new innovations yet to be brought to market, entitled the 'Make it in Great Britain Challenge'. This campaign aims to build on the success of the See Inside Manufacturing initiative, which the automotive sector piloted this year. (Source: BIS)

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2011/Nov/make-it-in-great-britain>

Government announces new apprenticeship initiative

Business Secretary Vince Cable has unveiled fresh plans to boost the number of employers offering apprenticeships and new measures to ensure more young people benefit from such schemes. Addressing business leaders at an Apprenticeship Summit hosted by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), Mr Cable pledged to slash the red tape that can deter companies from taking on apprentices and provide financial incentives to help smaller firms recruit young apprentices. Government will offer small companies with up to 50 employees an incentive payment in the region of £1,500 to help them to take on one apprentice. Ministers say this would support approximately 20,000 new apprenticeships in 2012-13. Processes will also be simplified to make it quicker

and easier for employers to take on new apprentices. Ministers are also keen to streamline current health and safety requirements so that there are no additional demands on employers that already meet national standards. In addition to the apprenticeship announcement, government has launched a £250 million pilot scheme that aims to give employers the power to design, develop and purchase vocational training, to help ensure that the UK workforce has the skills that businesses require. The initiative was launched by Prime Minister David Cameron at the opening of McLaren Automotive's new £50 million manufacturing facility in Surrey. The new 32,000-square metre McLaren Production Centre (MPC) is located adjacent to the McLaren Technology Centre at its headquarters in Woking, which is also home to the groups Formula 1 team. The McLaren Group has chosen to base its high-tech facility in the UK, alongside its Technology Centre, to build all of its high-performance models, creating up to 350 highly-skilled jobs. (Source: BIS)

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2011/Nov/apprenticeships-boost-for-firms>



UK vehicle production up 12.5% in October

Figures published by SMMT show that UK vehicle production rose 12.5% in October, and is up 5.1% over the year to date. Car manufacturing rose 14.1% and is up 5.8% over the year to date, whilst commercial vehicle output dipped 2.9% in October, and is down 2.7% over the year to date. UK engine production rose 12% in October and is up 5.7% over

the first 10 months of 2011. Commenting on the figures, SMMT Chief Executive Paul Everitt stated: "Strong export demand for UK-built cars and engines is good news for the economy during this difficult period. Weak UK market demand is a cause for concern and makes it essential that the Chancellor uses his Autumn Statement to help encourage private sector investment and boost economic growth". (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2011/11/smmt-uk-automotive-manufacturing-october-2011/>

Additional £10 million investment in low carbon technologies announced

The Technology Strategy Board have announced an additional £10 million of grant funding to be made available to research, develop and demonstrate technologies that will achieve significant cuts in carbon emissions from road transport. The additional investment follows the decision by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to channel the funding it has available for low carbon vehicle technology research and development through the Technology Strategy Board collaborative R&D competition. This additional investment together with the £15 million announced by the Business Secretary, Vince Cable in October means £25 million is now available to UK businesses to accelerate the commercialisation of low carbon vehicles. As the Government grants will match-fund investment by the participating businesses, the total value of the research and development projects will be at least £50 million. Grants for each project are likely to range from £500,000 up to in excess of £5 million. A networking event is planned for 10 January 2012, to present the scope of the funding competition and facilitate consortia-building. The competition opens on 20 February 2012 and expressions of interest must be submitted by 28 March 2012. (Source: TSB)

<http://www.innovateuk.org/content/news/extra-10-million-investment-for-low-carbon-vehicle.ashx>

Labour Party publishes interim business and enterprise report

The Labour Party's Business and Enterprise Working Group, part of the Labour Party's policy review and led by Chuka Umunna, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills, has published its interim

report entitled "The challenges we face: The new economy we need". The report calls for an active, intelligent government that uses all the tools and levers at its disposal to "shape the rules of the game" so that long-term business success is supported. The report calls on government to use its consumer power to reward companies doing the right thing and help build the new economy. The report suggests measures such as awarding procurement contracts to companies that offer apprenticeships (for contracts above a £1m threshold), and using existing government procurement budgets to expand the value of contracts going to high-growth potential, innovative companies under the Small Business Research Initiative created by the last Labour Government. In addition Labour Leader Ed Miliband has delivered a speech to the Social Market Foundation on "Building a new economy". Mr. Miliband's speech further set out his vision for the economy, following on from the Labour Party Conference, and called for a "new, more responsible and productive capitalism", with an emphasis on the system of capitalism and shareholder culture being reformed. Five key areas highlighted in the speech were 'refounding' the relationship between finance and the economy, company worth, skills, responsibility, and reducing predatory behaviour and vested interests. (Source: Labour)

<http://www.labour.org.uk/uploads/70258361-8565-aeb4-a1dc-18a3f883c105.pdf>

Party leaders announce Queen Elizabeth Engineering Prize

A £1 million prize, to be awarded for exceptional advances in engineering, has been launched by party leaders at the Science Museum. The prize, which is designed to raise the profile of engineering, is funded by an endowment from a number of engineering companies, and will be awarded biennially to an individual or team of up to three people, of any nationality, directly responsible for advancing the positive application of engineering knowledge. The first award will be presented in Spring 2013. Speaking at the launch event, Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, stated: "This Prize flies in the face of the myth that engineering is a part of Britain's past. We are bringing engineering home". (Source: Royal Academy of Engineering)

<http://www.raeng.org.uk/prizes/qeprize/default.htm>



Design & Technology Association launch “We believe in D&T” campaign

The Design and Technology Association has launched a campaign to keep Design and Technology (D&T) in the classroom as government considers removing the subject as a result of a review of the National Curriculum. The ‘We believe in D&T’ campaign hosted a breakfast event to provide a forum for senior business leaders, industry stakeholders and government officials to consider the implications for UK industry if D&T is no longer a statutory subject. A panel of industry representatives, chaired by The Guardian’s Industrial Editor, Dan Milmo, and including Andrew Miller MP, Chair of the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, and Paul Everitt, Chief Executive of SMMT, discussed the importance of D&T in light of government’s ambition to rebalance the UK economy towards manufacturing and enhance the global competitiveness of production industries. (Source: D&T campaign)

<http://www.believeindandt.org.uk/>

Environmental Audit Committee publish “Air quality” report

The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee has published its 2011 “Air quality” report which states that government has failed to address the issues outlined in the 2010 report, and that currently 40 out of 43 UK assessment zones are failing to meet EU targets. The 2011 report calls on government to establish a national framework of low emission zones, set up a Cabinet Office lead Ministerial Group to over see delivery of a new cross government air quality strategy and launch a public

awareness campaign to drive air quality up the political agenda. (Source: EAC)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmenvaud/1024/102402.htm>

Week ahead

SMMT 95th Annual Dinner – Tuesday 22 November
London Hilton, Park Lane

Commons Chamber

Tuesday 22 November – Ten-minute-rule motion:
Road Safety (No. 2) Bill

Westminster Hall

No relevant activity

Commons Committees

Tuesday 22 November – Transport Committee (10:05 am) – The work of the DVLA and DSA
Wednesday 23 November – Environmental Audit Committee (9:30 am, Grimond room) – Green economy

Lords Chamber

No relevant activity

Lords Committees

No relevant activity